

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
September 14, 2016**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE: Lou Casinghino, Chairman
..... Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
..... Jay Bombard
..... Leeayn Burke, Clerk
..... Scott Tobey

ABSENT: Brian Casinghino
..... Amy Egan
..... Kerri Milne
..... David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Scott seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy passed out the fall brochure and reviewed the new and standard programs offered. She also discussed the Scare It Up event. Wendy would like the Parks & Recreation Commission and department to participate since there is a friendly rivalry between departments.

Wendy said that the Town Clerk sent emails to those commission members who need to be sworn in and asked that they follow up on this. The Town Clerk is working on a guide for commissions and boards so they will know how to conduct meetings according to State rules. Wendy will notify the commission once it is on-line.

Wendy said that the annual report is due and she and Lou have worked on it. Lou said that Wendy did an excellent job.

The rock plaque honoring Mike Roccantì's wife is finished and up at Sunrise Park. Mike has been made aware of this and is very appreciative.

Wendy received an email from Amy. Amy stated that due to a change in her teaching schedule she will not be able to attend meetings for this semester. Amy also said that she does not know what the following semester schedule is and wanted to know if the

commission would ask her for a replacement or wait and see what the next semester schedule is. Jay and Scott said that they had served on the commission before but family and work obligations did not allow them to participate fully so they resigned and are now back on the commission as it is a better time for them. Consensus of the commission was that Amy resigns at this time but she would be welcomed back when it is possible for her to attend and be part of the commission.

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments

OLD BUSINESS

Babbs Update: Wendy reviewed the Rededication of the Opening of Babbs on Friday.

Wendy attended a C.R.C. meeting on Tuesday and reported on the progress. Everyone is excited on the improvements. There has been some vandalism and the police department is doing regular sweeps to try and stop the vandalism.

It was discussed to re-establish the Babbs sub-committee to work on rules and operating procedures for next year. Cindy and Leeayn volunteered and Cindy would like to have Gerry Crane on the sub-committee as an ad hoc member.

Bridge Street Community Center Update: Wendy said the Bridge Street group met yesterday but they are waiting for updates at the Tri-Board meeting on September 26. This meeting will cover Bridge Street Community Center, Town Hall and the Library. The abatement work may start in October.

Brian is heading up the 501c3 sub-committee on fundraising. They are working on fundraising strategies but are waiting for the project to start before they go out to the public.

Fall Soccer: Wendy said we have 316 children in the program, and last year we had 313. Wendy thanked Scott and Cindy for their help at the coaches meeting August 29. Wendy said that there have been issues this year with late signups and parents wanting to change the days they choose for practice. This is very challenging due to the fact that once you move one child then you have to move other children to balance teams.

Wendy said that Dan has helped greatly this year and will not be helping out next year and she would like to have the soccer sub-committee startup again to help with this large scale program. The sub-committee should be made up of parents, Cindy Fisher, commission members and herself.

Wendy discussed 5 boys on a waiting list for grades 1st & 2nd. Wendy said that she did add late sign ups to teams so now some teams have 7 players instead of 6. The parents wanted the smaller teams with 3v3 so the children would have more playing time. Lou said that we should add these additional children. The teams will be larger now. The commission discussed this in detail. Lou made a motion to add the late sign-up children

to teams. The commission discussed this issue again. Jay seconded the motion and the vote was 4 yes and Cindy abstained.

Scott asked about the schedule change. Wendy reviewed why the changes were necessary since some coaches were coaching two age groups and an email blast was sent to coaches regarding this change.

Road Race: Wendy thanked the commission members for their help on Saturday. The total runners this year was 158. A request was made to make a 70+ category which will be added next year. Wendy said that she received very good comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jay said he wanted to discuss the schedule for adult winter program schedules for gyms. Jay said the travel basketball club contacted him regarding this. Jay said that they would like to have the adult volleyball program start later. Wendy said that this year the men's basketball program is not being held so there will be more gym time available for youth to use. This was discussed and also the divider at the middle school and if this could be used for basketball on one side and volleyball on the other. Wendy said that if some of our youth basketball programs do not fill then that time will be given back. Wendy would like to keep the adult volleyball at 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays.

ADJOURNMENT: Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Leeayn Burke, Clerk